[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

is over and the organisms responsible for the cause have been found out. The environmental conditions under which the disease is produced have also been discovered. The second stage of the scheme deals with experiments which have to be conducted in the field involving both application of scientific manures and spraying with fungicides, to bring the disease under control.

The honourable members might ask the question why the Demand has been brought forward now. My answer is that these items of works were not contemplated during the regular budget time. The Imperial Council have sanctioned the schemes only now. In all these schemes, the Council have agreed to contribute 50 per cent. of the cost incurred for the purpose and in view of the great practical utility of these schemes to the State I request the honourable members to concede this Demand.

President: The honourable members of the House will be glad to notice that for some time past we have been connected with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and they are taking a live interest in South India and Travancore in particular and are now financing certain of our schemes.

The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 6,140 under Demand XX—Agriculture.

The motion was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXII—Co-Operative.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,400 under Demand XXII—Co-operative Department—for meeting the expenditure in connection with the work of the Co-operative Advisory Committee. I do not think that it is necessary for me at this stage to expatiate at considerable length on the present position of the co-operative movement. The honourable members of the House know it only too well. Although started with the best of intentions, it has not developed on right lines. It has been on the decline for some years past and unless prompt and effective measures are taken, it will still further deteriorate. The Central Bank, the Taluk Banks and the Primary Societies are now stuck up in the mud as it were and I do not think that I am using the language of exaggeration when I say that the entire movement is in a state of suspended animation. But every one will realise that there is no other single organisation than the co-operative movement which could be an efficient factor in promoting economic life in various spheres such as agriculture, the development of cottage industries and the marketing of agricultural

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and industrial products. Honourable members will realise that the possibilities of the co-operative movement are very great. To borrow your own words, Sir, the co-operative movement has to be given a new orientation with a view to make it a consumer's movement, a producer's movement, a distributor's movement and a marketer's movement. The question of putting the movement on a sound basis has been engaging the attention of both the Government and the public men of Travancore for some time past and on the 8th Karkadagom 1116 a conference of the leading representatives of the various Co-operative Societies was held in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall to consider this question. They passed resolutions requesting Government to come to the rescue of the movement by giving adequate financial aid and, if necessary, by exercising control over the working of these societies. That conference also passed another resolution that an Advisory Committee should be constituted to help the Registrar in drawing up a practical and workable scheme for rehabilitating the movement. Government passed orders authorising the constitution of the committee, and directed that the report should be submitted within three months. I can testify to the enthusasism, zeal and earnestness with which the members of the committee are discharging their duties. They have already met twice and deliberated on various aspects of the movement and it is to meet the travelling allowance of the committee members that this Demand is made. This item was not contemplated at the time the budget was considered by the Council. In the interest of the movement, I request the honourable members to give their assent to this Demand.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,400 under Demand XXII—Co-operative Department—was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND XXXI—MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

Mr. A. Lekshminarayana Ayyar: Sir, I beg to move for a sum of Rs. 1,00,000—under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous Charges—for additional contribution to the Distress Relief Fund. In the year 1116 a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was voted by this House for Distress Relief and to provide work for those thrown out of employment on account of the closing down of certain factories. About Rs. two lakhs was spent that year and Rs. one and a half lakhs will be spent this year. The balance of Rs. one and a half lakhs will be invested to earn compound interest in accordance with the announcement made by the Dewan-President on the 9th August 1941. It was also announced then that a sum of not less than Rs. one lakh will be provided each year for investment so that the accumulations may be available later on in times

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